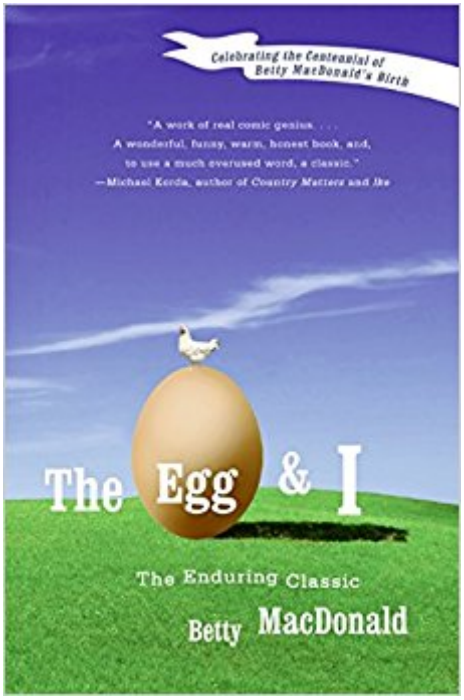
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The Egg And I



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Synopsis

When Betty MacDonald married a marine and moved to a small chicken farm on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State, she was largely unprepared for the rigors of life in the wild. With no running water, no electricity, a house in need of constant repair, and days that ran from four in the morning to nine at night, the MacDonalds had barely a moment to put their feet up and relax. And then came the children. Yet through every trial and pitfallÃ¢â ¬â •through chaos and catastropheÃ¢â ¬â •this indomitable family somehow, mercifully, never lost its sense of humor.A beloved literary treasure for more than half a century, Betty MacDonald's The Egg and I is a heartwarming and uproarious account of adventure and survival on an American frontier.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Anyone who has ever struggled with a farm or even with a small garden will especially enjoy this breezy autobiography, But everyone will find its hilarious reminiscences of an unconventional childhood and of unique experiences in the Northwest Pacific sprightly, diverting, and excellent entertainment. The whole book crackles with the innocent deviltry of acorns hitting the roof-tops." -- "Saturday Review of Literature""For all the allegedly gloomy moments, The Egg and I is an astoundingly light-hearted book. The MacDonalds, one gathers, had both youth and gumption on their side, to say nothing of an abounding humor that bounced them over the direst crises." "-- New York Times"

A longtime resident of Washington State, Betty MacDonald (1908-1958) authored four humorous,

autobiographical bestsellers and several children's books, including the popular Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle books.

ThereÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s a scene in this book where some hens fly up into the apple trees and wonÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t come down. Frantic about the fate of these domestic homebody birds, the author eventually gives up and says ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“they made their bed, theyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢d have to lie in it.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• The hens end up as dinner for the weasels, raccoons, hawks, and other creatures indigenous to the farm. She describes her chickens as boneheads who have 365 days to learn to recognize their masters and still screech every time theyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢re brought their lunch. She canÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t figure out why the chickens never have canine loyalty.If you think the chickens are silly, youÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ll love their neighbors, the Kettle family. For those of you that loved the ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Ma and Pa KettleÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• films of the 1950ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s, hereÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s where they started, right here in the Pacific Northwest, the silliest farmers in the USA. MacDonald wrote about them based on her neighbors, the Bishops, who sued the MacDonalds for defamation (and lost) after the movie came out. The Ma and Pa Kettle movies are long since forgotten, but theyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢re a hilarious bunch in this book.Though this book is comedy, there is a very dark and disturbing chapter, reserved for the Native Americans. Raised on the Hiawatha poem to believe that all natives were noble savages, sheÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s shocked to discover their level of degeneracy. The men, women, and children are all alcoholics, and kids as young as 12 are drinking moonshine. Old men are having sex with the children in public, and babies are allowed to eat garbage they find on the beach. ItÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s as though theyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve become worse than the inbred white trash of South Carolina, and though it wasnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t diagnosed then, I bet the children all had fetal alcohol syndrome.IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢m not sure how much value this book has today, except maybe to those of us contemplating a career in organic farming. If youÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢re wondering why I read this book in the first place, the answer is that I looked up the author of the Mrs. Pigglewiggle series and found that she wrote this before she got into childrenÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s books.

It is quite obvious that the current readers of this book were not alive when this story took place. I am 80 years old and have two First Editions of this book. I only bought it on kiindle because I need to be able to make the print so much larger. And...I am sure I will reread it before my demise and have many laffs.PS: I lived in the area where she was on her farm.

This is a supposedly hilarious memoir about a 22-year-old woman whose new husband tells her he's going to buy a farm and raise chickens. She hates chicken, the locals are unfriendly or coarse or too perfect, and her loneliness screamed at me throughout. The husband, who, I discovered, she divorced after four years, - good for her - paid absolutely no attention to how she felt as a city girl expected to get up at 4.30 to work until 7.30 at night. All this without running water or electricity. I admire her for seeing the funny side, but it didn't make me laugh. She's also predisposed by the time (late 1920's) and place to think of Indians as drunks and layabouts, though her husband, who clearly prefers the company of men, shows no such prejudice. But that's the only positive thing about him. It made me squirm, frankly.I think, if you want to laugh, movie with Fred McMurray and Claudette Colbert is a better bet. Or Green Acres. At least they're funny.

An intriguing and humorous story of a woman's struggle with life in rural Washington on a chicken farm. Filled with memorable characters and passionate descriptions of the country and life, this book draws you in and keeps you amused. While there are gross generalizations and old stereotypes heartily used, it is the voice of its time and place. Betty shared her life in a natural and unapologetic manner. She was critical not only of others but also herself. This pleasant and rarely mean spirited narration provides a story worth reading. You'll fin yourself laughing in spite of yourself control and shock.

This memoir is simply delightful. It's hysterically funny, but not in jokey set-up way. Her humor rises gently from the situations she's forced into and will just make you smile. Anyone, living in Washington state should be required to read this since it portrays island life before Seattle and environs became uber polished by Microsoft, and Starbucks money. This is the Washington of our grandparents generation and it was a lovely place.Once you get addicted to Betty's MacDonald's writing you might also want to check outÃ Â The Plague and I. This is a memoir of her time recovering from tuburculosis at a sanitarium in north Seattle that is now a high school.HIGHLY, HIGHLY, RECOMMEND!!!

I thought this was a great book, I was laughing all the way through it. The description of Ma &Pa Kettle was right on with what you will see in the movie. And the rest if the characters were pretty close to what I have seen in the movies. This was great, and I will read it again and again.

This book was given to me by my mother and I had it until lent it to a depressed friend. I found another one on and over the years have probably bought at least six either as gifts or to replace one borrowed from me. Why would I read this over and over? Because we all have things occur that drive you to distraction and if you can step back and see the funny side then you can laugh and go on and have that great story to tell. Yes I watched someone try to install a gate upside and backwards three times in a row,

Betty's first and most famous book, about her life on the chicken ranch in the Pacific Northwest.I say semi-autobiographical as she had to change some names/locations so she wouldn't offend her neighbors.It also provides some great details about her early life before her marriage, and what life was like during the Great Depression.Much better than the film version with Claudette Colbert and Fred MacMurray, and that was a pretty good little film.

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